

Michigan Hunting News



FROM STATE SENATOR

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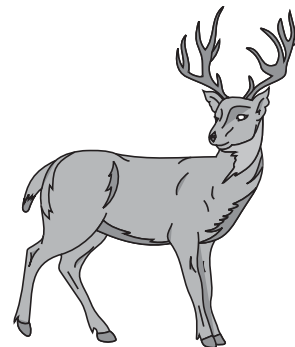
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Dear Friend:

With the fall fast approaching, the time of year is at hand when Michigan families begin planning their hunting activities while enjoying the splendor of our Great Lakes state. As your link to state government, I want to share some important information that may be helpful to you, including information on licensing, chronic wasting disease and bovine tb.

I trust you will find this update useful. As always, I welcome your comments and suggestions on ways to preserve Michigan's legendary hunting heritage. In the meantime, I wish you and your family a safe hunting season.

Sincerely,

Michelle A. McManus
State Senator

Chronic Wasting Disease

To date, Michigan is free of a serious, neurological disease that has impacted hunting in some neighboring states. Chronic wasting disease (CWD) affects deer and elk. It attacks the animals' nervous system, causing chronic weight loss and eventual death. It is not known to be transmitted to humans, or other animals.

While CWD has not been found in Michigan and the state is taking steps to prevent any occurrence here, hunters should be aware of deer or elk exhibiting signs of a possible CWD infection. Symptoms include: weight loss and behavioral changes such as nervousness, excessive salivation, and loss of fear and coordination. Hunters observing deer with these abnormal signs should contact the RAP line at: 1-800-292-7800. Further information on CWD, including Michigan's surveillance and response plan, is available at both the DNR website: www.michigan.gov/dnr and the Michigan Department of Agriculture website: www.michigan.gov/mda.

How to Spot Bovine TB

Although aggressive steps have been taken to eradicate bovine tuberculosis, it remains a threat to Michigan's deer population. Hunters should be especially careful in closely examining their kill for tuberculosis, and reporting any finding to the Department of Natural Resources.

Of the TB-positive deer found to date, about 40 percent had lesions that would be easily recognized by most hunters. Hunters should check deer for:

- **Pea-sized tan or yellow lumps lining the lung tissue.**
- **Pea-sized tan or yellow lumps on the inside of the ribcage.**
- **One, or many, lesions that are typical of the disease.**

If you observe this type of infection, contact the DNR so the carcass and viscera, in addition to the head, can be examined. Also, hunters taking deer in special TB surveillance areas should turn in the deer's head for free testing whether these signs of infection are present or not.

For more information on bovine TB, visit the state's website:

www.bovinetb.com

Baiting and Feeding Regulations for Deer

LEGEND



Baiting and Feeding Ban Area

For counties of Presque Isle, Otsego, Montmorency, Alpena, Crawford, Oscoda, and Alcona.



Baiting and Recreational Feeding Allowed

No more than two (2) gallons per any one hunting site, or, per residence at any one time.



Baiting for Elk is illegal in Michigan!

Hunting On the Web

Information available at
www.michigan.gov/dnr

You can search for hunter, marine, snowmobile and ORV safety programs by clicking on Quick Links to Hunter Safety Classes on the Home page.

It's easy to purchase hunting and fishing licenses from home! Click the On-line Hunting and Fishing Licenses box on the Home page.


Eligible servicemen and women can purchase a special \$1 military discount license upon presentation of leave papers. The license is valid for up to two weeks. On the website, click on Hunting; then click on Licenses and Seasons.

Hunters often share a great interest in conserving and protecting Michigan's natural resources. You can access thorough, practical information on establishing and maintaining wildlife habitat in the publication, *Managing Michigan Wildlife: A Landowners Guide*. Click on Wildlife and Habitat; then click on Creating Wildlife Habitat.

Shooting ranges provide an important venue for fun and recreation, as well as hunter safety programs. You can access a map of public shooting ranges by clicking on Recreation and Camping; then click on Shooting Ranges.



Wild Turkey Management



Managing wild turkeys in Michigan involves the complex interactions of turkey populations and their habitat and their relationship to people. Hunting plays an important role in the management of turkeys by regulating their numbers. The goal of the spring wild turkey hunting season is to maximize hunter opportunity while maintaining a satisfactory hunting experience. Limited to gobblers only, this conservative harvest approach has allowed the continued growth and expansion of the wild turkey population in Michigan.

Wild turkey hunting in the fall enables the DNR to stabilize or reduce wild turkey numbers in certain areas of the state to meet local goals based on habitat conditions and public attitudes. License quotas are developed to harvest the desired number of turkeys to meet the management goal. To help reach these goals, hunters are encouraged to harvest female turkeys during the fall season.

Hunting License Requirements



To buy a hunting license, a hunter must have a valid Michigan driver license, a valid Michigan ID card and additional proof of residency, or a Michigan DNR Sportscard (issued through a license dealer). In addition, all hunters born on or after January 1, 1960 must also present their Hunter Safety Certificate, previous hunting license or sign their license in the presence of the license dealer.

The DNR also reminds hunters that:

- **All licenses must be signed to be valid. Your signature certifies that you meet required residency and hunter safety requirements.**
- **Licenses and the identification used to purchase that license must be carried at all times when hunting or trapping.**
- **It is illegal to use another person's hunting license.**

For more detailed information on how to obtain a hunting or harvesting license in Michigan, visit the DNR's website at www.michigan.gov/dnr or talk to a license vendor.

Gun Safety Rules

- 1. Always keep the gun pointed in a safe direction.**
 - Never point a firearm at anything you don't want to shoot.
 - Treat every firearm as if it were loaded.
- 2. Always keep your finger off the trigger until you are ready to shoot.**
 - Rest your finger on the trigger guard or along the side of the gun until you are ready to fire.
- 3. Always keep the gun unloaded until you are ready to shoot.**
 - Engage the safety device and keep the action open.
- 4. Before firing, know your target and what is beyond.**
 - Never shoot at a hard surface or at water — your round may ricochet.
 - Never fire a rifle or handgun directly upward or at a high angle.
 - Never shoot across a highway or other roadway.
- 5. Learn how to use the gun safely.**
 - Before handling a gun, learn how it operates and how to use the safety.
- 6. Be sure the gun is safe to operate and use only the correct ammunition.**
 - Just like other tools, guns need regular cleaning and maintenance.
 - Most guns have the ammunition type stamped on the barrel.
 - Never fire a gun which may have an object plugging the barrel



Senator Michelle McManus, proudly displays her prize from her first turkey hunt. McManus, an avid hunter and member of the National Rifle Association, brought in the 20.20 lb. bird with the help of the Department of Natural Resources and the National Wild Turkey Federation.



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2003 Hunting Guide

For comprehensive information on hunting seasons, regulations, licensing, bag limits and more, check out a copy of the 2003 Michigan Hunting and Trapping Guide. Of special interest, the Guide highlights major regulation changes for the 2003 season, including:

- **Ruffed grouse season is open statewide**
September 15-November 14 and December 1-January 1, 2004.
- **New kill tags.**
- **Properly licensed legally blind hunters may use a crossbow.**
- **New regulations pertaining to the importation of deer and elk carcasses into Michigan.**
- **DMU 045 becomes an experimental Deer Management Unit.**
- **Squirrel season has been extended (September 15-March 1).**

The Guide can be accessed at the Michigan Department of Natural Resources website at: www.michigan.gov/dnr or hard copies are available from more than 1700 license agents statewide.

Important DNR TELEPHONE NUMBERS:



Wildlife Bureau. 517-373-1263
Fisheries. 517-373-1280
Parks & Recreation. 517-373-9900
Forest Management. 517-373-1275
Law Enforcement. 517-373-1230
Report All Poaching. . . . 1-800-292-7800

www.michigan.gov/dnr

Senator McManus' Office Seeks Constituent E-Mail Addresses

In an effort to keep residents up to date with what is happening in Lansing and keep office costs down due to budget reductions, Senator McManus is asking interested constituents to forward their e-mail address to the office to be included in an e-mail legislative update list. Considering the state of the economy, electronic mail is an inexpensive and convenient method to transmit information to those who would be interested in receiving legislative updates. Legislators typically use constituent e-mail addresses for newsletters, weekly updates and to seek input on a variety of issues. Please send your requests to senmmcmanus@senate.michigan.gov

